



Raising Caring, Respectful, Ethical Children: Seven Tips for Parents and Caretakers

Key experts and leading organizations in the fields of social and emotional learning, character development, and moral development offer guidelines

October 27, 2014

CAMBRIDGE, MA—Research in human development clearly shows that the seeds of empathy, caring, and compassion are present from early in life. But to become caring, ethical people, children need adults to help them at every stage of childhood to nurture these seeds along the way.

The following tips are a set of guideposts to raising caring, respectful, and ethical children, along with tips for putting them into action.

The tips are based on the collective wisdom of key experts and leading organizations in the fields of social and emotional learning, character development, and moral development. They represent an effort to send common and clear messages to parents and caretakers across diverse perspectives and organizations.

The experts and organizations were brought together by the Making Caring Common project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to address issues such as bullying, social-emotional development, character education, building strong communities, and empowering youth. They have informally agreed to:

1. Periodically place the combined power of our organizations behind jointly created documents that articulate key principles, practices, and messages for parents, schools, policymakers and community institutions, such as our recent document articulating principles and tips for parents
2. Share information and resources
3. Assist one another with dissemination of resources to parents, schools, and others in the field
4. Generate innovative partnerships among participating organizations that advance the field

The following experts and organizations added their insights, research, and expertise to create this set of guideposts:

Ashoka

Jessica Berlinski, Adaptive Health Systems

Career Training Concepts / H.E.A.R.—Helping Everyone Achieve Respect

Cartoon Network

Center for Character and Citizenship at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

Center for the 4th and 5th Rs, SUNY Cortland
Character Education Partnership (CEP)
Deborah Temkin
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Committee for Children
Facing History and Ourselves
Great Schools
Greater Good Science Center, University of California, Berkeley
HopeLab
Jubilee Center for Character and Virtues
Making Caring Common, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Maurice J. Elias, Director, Social-Emotional Learning Lab, Rutgers University
Michele Borba
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
National School Climate Center
Peace First
PREVNet
The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation
YMCA of the USA

About Making Caring Common

Making Caring Common (MCC), a project of the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), aims to help educators, parents, and communities raise children who are caring, respectful, and responsible toward others and their communities. www.makingcaringcommon.org

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